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USAID Moves Additional Assistance for Aceh

Continuing its support to tsunami-affected communities, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is swiftly providing an additional \$10 million for development and reconstruction.

The new funding will reintegrate displaced people back to their communities and support the re-establishment of livelihoods. This includes entrepreneurial, small business and other income generating activities that revitalize local economies. Funds will rehabilitate small scale infrastructure, such as roads, schools, clinics, and key local government facilities, and help restore core local governance capacity and services. Health, hygiene, water and sanitation will remain a priority of USAID activity, particularly in under-served areas of the West coast. USAID will also conduct an assessment of the coastal environment to effectively respond to the livelihood needs of coastal communities.

This new funding will increase the total assistance provided by the U.S. Government to Indonesia to more than \$52.1 million. President Bush is seeking a total of \$950 million in aid to tsunami-affected countries for reconstruction of infrastructure, to help victims transition back to their communities, for early warning and disaster mitigation efforts, for good governance and technical assistance.

The U.S. Government, through USAID, will provide additional grant assistance to support the people of Aceh and North Sumatra as they rebuild. According to William M. Frej, USAID Mission Director, "The U.S. Government's reconstruction activities will foster a smooth transition from relief to long-term recovery, and rehabilitate critical large and small infrastructure in order to restore basic services, such as health and education. Activities will revitalize economic livelihoods and foster the return of people to revived communities." Priorities under discussion/review include: 1) specific infrastructure prioritized by these communities, in addition to large signature infrastructure; 2) shelter 3) early warning/disaster mitigation; 4) good governance and administration; 5) restoration of livelihoods.

For more information on USAID activities, please contact Betina Moreira at 3435-9424 or bmoreira@usaid.gov

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